

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, and 12 are amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended these claims to remove the language found by the Examiner to be unclear. Additional amendments—discussed below—have also been made. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now clear and that the §112 rejection is now moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunii (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0056375 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended to include a new step or element. In amended claim 1, for example, the newly added step recites “a setting step of setting, for each of the plurality of pieces of data reproducing equipment registered in association with individual users, whether or not to make the data reproducing equipment an object of search.” Support for this amendment are exemplified by the

“SET” button and “NOT SET” button B5 shown in Fig. 6 and described in the specification, page 25, second paragraph.

Thus amended claim 1 is characterized in that: the registration step registers a plurality of pieces of data reproducing equipment in association with individual users; the setting step sets, for each of the plurality of pieces of data reproducing equipment registered in association with the individual users, whether or not to make or set the data reproducing equipment an object of search; and the step of selectively searching searches a plurality of items of content for particular content reproducible with one or more pieces of data reproducing equipment having been set as objects of search from among the plurality of pieces of data reproducing equipment registered in association with the individual users. With such arrangements, the information supplying method of the invention permits non-wasteful, efficient searches.

In contrast, the cited Kunii reference merely discloses that information about a musical instrument possessed by a client is registered in advance in a server, so that the server selects advertisement information related to the registered musical instrument and transmits the selected advertisement information to the client. It is apparent that the above-mentioned features of amended claim 1 are not shown or suggested in the Kunii reference.

Independent claims 10 and 12 have been amended along similar lines and are thus also now believed to be in condition for allowance.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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